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of amalgamating it with unit charges and then raise the price per unit instead of deceiving the illiterate people simply with believing in what they say? ''

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—'' There is no deceipt in this, Sir. The surcharge is levied for a certain purpose. If it is amalgamated with the unit charge, it will continue to stay for more time than is necessary. The war time conditions are there and increased dearness allowance, etc. are still being paid to workers. It is only the Opposition members who are clamouring for higher payment to the workers.''

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—'' Sir, the Hon. Minister stated that this surcharge on private consumers of electricity has been necessitated by the increased cost of production of electricity. The bulk consumers, the distributors, are not charged this surcharge. May I know whether the electricity that is supplied to bulk distributors is produced at a lower cost or at the same cost as before? ''

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—'' I said this 20 per cent surcharge was for consumers other than distributing licensees receiving bulk supplies. In their case, the surcharge is 10 per cent.''

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—'' Well, the 20 per cent surcharge is charged on private consumers and it is not charged on bulk suppliers. If the bulk suppliers are charged only 10 per cent how is it that these bulk suppliers are charging the 20 per cent on the private consumers? ''

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—'' They have to meet the extra cost of their staff and other conditions, such as dearness allowance, etc., which they are also paying.''

SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—'' அரசாங்கம் தற்பொழுது தனிப்பட்ட மின்சார விநியோகஸ்தர்களுக்கு குறைந்த விலைக்கு விநியோகம் செய்கிறது. அவர்கள் முதலீட்டிற்கு தகுந்தவாறு லாபம் வைத்துத்தான் உபயோகிக்கிறவர்களுக்கு கொடுக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் மேலும் அரசாங்கம் விநியோகஸ்தர்களுக்கு 10 சதம் அதிகமாகவும் விலையேற்றத்தின் காரணமாக உபயோகிப்பவர்களுக்கு 20 சதம் அதிகமாகவும் வைத்து விற்கிறார்கள். இது மேலும் அதிக லாபம் சம்பாதிக்கவும், உபயோகிப்பவர்களுக்கு அதிக சார்ஜும் ஆகிறது பற்றி அரசாங்கத்திற்கு தெரியுமா ? ''

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—'' They have got to charge their power under the Act.''

National Extension Service in South Arcot.

* 120 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) what are the blocks and the specific areas proposed to be taken for starting the National Extension Scheme Block under the Five-Year Plan in South Arcot district in the year 1954–55 ; and

(*b*) the amount proposed to be spent during the year?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Nil.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" தென் ஆற்காடு மாவட்டத்தில் தேசிய விஸ்தரிப்பு வேலைகளில் அதிகாரிகளுக்கு எவ்வளவு பணம் செலவழிக்கிறார்கள் ? எத்தனைப்பேர்களை அமர்த்தியிருக்கிறார்கள் ? காதி உண்டியல் வாங்கினால் தான் தக்காவி கடன் கொடுக்கப்படும் என்ற நிபந்தனையை அதிகாரிகள் உபயோகிக்கிறார்களா என்பதை அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I am sorry I cannot give any information in reply to the question that has been framed and put by the hon. Member."

Experiment on artificial rain-making.

* 273 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government are going to conduct any experiment for artificial rain for the State as announced by Mr. A. R. Venkatachari, Chief Engineer, in the Chief Engineers' Conference at Madras on the 30th May 1954?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The question of conducting experiments on artificial rain-making is under the consideration of this Government and no final decision has yet been taken in the matter."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—" When will that be conducted, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, experiments are being conducted not only in this country, but also in the United States of America, Canada, East Africa, Australia, etc., and nowhere has the experiment been finalized. Our Government have been doing it here in their own way without much of expenditure."

Development of cottage industries.

* 274 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of cottage industries started by the Government in the year 1953 and the amount spent thereon ;

(*b*) the extent of lands given to the managements of cottage industries in 1953 ; and

(*c*) the amount granted to cottage industries by way of subsidy in the year 1953?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The Government have not started in the State any new cottage industry departmentally in the year 1953. But about 35 cottage industries have been revived in that year. A total amount of Rs. 1,050 has been disbursed to artisans as loan for the development of these industries.

" (*b*) & (*c*) Nil, Sir."